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STRAY DOGS™

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image®

STRAY DOGS

Chapter 1: GOOD GIRL

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Sophie?
The doctor's ready for you.

Hey, Sophie! Hey, good girl!

You're here for...

Ok. Just Bordetella. Easy. How's she feeling?

She's feeling frightened-- Always.

The whole drive here she wouldn't stop trembling.

I think the minute I put her in the car she remembers she's going to get a shot.

And then I'm scared she's going to hate me for doing this to her.

Oh, don't worry...

First: it's a proven fact that it's not possible for a dog to hate their person.

Two:
That's not how their memory works.

Dogs remember you, they remember commands--

where they sleep.

But their short term memory mostly doesn't hold on to like...

...what happened last week.

It's ok, girl.

Good girl, Sophie.

Just give her a couple days...

She won't remember a thing.

MASTER!
FOOD!
Ok ok! Back up.
I've got a surprise!

It's ok, girl. It's ok.

You're safe now.

The rest of you be nice.

I'll bring some food in a bit.

NEW.

NEW DOG!

SNIFF.

SNIFF.

S-S-SNIFF. S-

NO.

NO.

STOP!

NEW DOG!

SMELLS NEW!

HEY! BACK UP!

EVERYBODY BE COOL.

CAN'T YOU SEE SHE'S AFRAID?

HEY-- IT'S OK...

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED.

YOU'RE SAFE HERE.

S- SOPHIE.

I'M RUSTY. PLEASED TO MEET YOU...

THERE WE GO. SEE?

WAIT... HAVE WE-- I FEEL LIKE...

DO I KNOW YOU?

I...

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO BE SCARED.

WE'RE FRIENDS, I PROMISE.

HERE--

MEET EVERYBODY ELSE.

THIS IS VICTOR...

AND THAT'S GUCCI.

THAT'S HENRY AND OTHER HENRY...

HELLO!!

...AND ALDO AND ROXANNE.

THAT'S KILLER...

AND IMOGENE...

CHARMED.

AND THAT OLD GUY OVER THERE IS EARL.

HMPH.

IT'S...NICE TO MEET YOU.

THIS IS THE SUNROOM (WE CALL IT THAT BECAUSE IT GETS THE MOST SUN).

THIS IS WHERE WE MOSTLY HANG OUT.

IT'S WHERE ALL THE SOFTEST PILLOWS ARE.

C'MON-- FOLLOW ME...

WE'LL GIVE YOU THE GRAND TOUR.

DOWN THIS WAY IS THE LIVING ROOM.

THAT'S THE FRONT YARD OUT THERE.

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED IN THE FRONT BECAUSE OF THE CARS.

MASTER CAUGHT THAT.

YEAH, HE WAS DELICIOUS.

IN HERE IS WHERE THE MASTER EATS.

WE USUALLY EAT OUR FOOD UPSTAIRS.

HERE-- CHECK THIS OUT...

OUT HERE'S THE BACK YARD.

WE COME OUT HERE IF WE NEED FRESH AIR OR IF WE WANT TO BLOW OFF STEAM.

SOMETIMES THE MASTER THROWS AROUND A BALL--

BATHROOM TOO!

...AND WE GO TO THE BATHROOM OUT HERE.

THERE'S ALSO PLENTY OF GRASS TO RUN OR LAY AROUND IN.

DID YOU HAVE A BACK YARD BEFORE?

I DON'T...

I CAN'T REMEMBER.

I MEAN--

THERE'S NOT TOO MUCH ELSE.

SUNROOM GETS THE MOST SUN.

YOU MET IMOGENE ALREADY.

THAT'S PRETTY MUCH IT.

RIGHT THERE'S THE BATHROOM AND DOWN THERE IS THE MASTER'S PRIVATE STUFF ROOM.

WE'RE NOT ALLOWED IN THERE.

WE THINK THAT'S WHERE HE KEEPS HIS TREATS.

AND RIGHT HERE'S THE BEDROOM.

WE ALL SLEEP IN THERE WITH THE MASTER.

UH OH...

...ACCIDENT.

OH NOT COOL, NEW DOG.

UGH.

ANYWAYS.

HEY, I CAN'T FIND THAT STICK.

WHAT STICK?

WHAT STICK??

THE SUPER COOL ONE. THE ONE YOU FOUND IN THAT BOX.

I DON'T REMEMBER A STICK--

AT ALL.

IT WAS TWO DAYS AGO!

ARE YOU MESSING WITH ME?

HEY...

I KNOW IT'S HARD AT FIRST. WE'VE ALL BEEN THERE.

ALL OF US ARE RESCUES. WE WERE ALL ABANDONED TOO.

BUT YOU REALLY ARE SAFE NOW.

THE MASTER WILL NEVER THROW YOU AWAY LIKE YOUR OTHER PEOPLE DID.

WHEN YOU'RE READY...

"...WE'RE HERE FOR YOU."

There you are.

Did you find a little hiding spot?

I've been looking all over for you.

You hungry?

Gosh, you're still shivering...

Here. You must be so cold.

SNIFF. S-

There you go...

No.

NO. STOP!

I REMEMBER.

YOUR MASTER...

BROKE INTO MY LADY'S HOUSE...

AND AND HE WAITED FOR HER. AND WHEN SHE CAME HOME...

HE...

HE KILLED HER AND HE BROUGHT ME HERE.

WAIT. WH--

YELP!

WHAT?!
WHAT'S HAPPENING??
IMOGENE BIT MY FOOT.
IMOGENE!? DID YOU BITE HIS FOOT?
OOOOKAY.
NEW DOG'S CRAZY.
GOT IT.
YEAH, WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, NEW DOG?
FOOLISHNESS.
HEY WAIT...
DID WE BURY THE STICK?
HOLD ON...
GUYS, SHE'S JUST CONFUSED. LISTEN--
I'M NOT LISTENING TO A SECOND OF THIS.
THIS IS THE MASTER! IT'S RIDICULOUS.
I CAN SMELL *EVERYTHING*. IF HE WAS A KILLER, I'D SMELL IT!
IF HE WAS A RACCOON OR... OR A SQUIRREL... I'D SMELL IT!
AND I DON'T SMELL *ANYTHING* LIKE THAT RIGHT NOW.
RIGHT NOW ALL I SMELL IS BULLSHIT.

YEAH, I'M WITH EARL ON THIS ONE.

HE'S BEEN HERE *FOREVER.*

HE'D REMEMBER IF THE MASTER HAD BEEN KILLING PEOPLE, RIGHT?

EARL CAN *SMELL* KILLERS!

HEY, DON'T WORRY. WE KNOW YOU'VE HAD A LONG DAY.

I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE PROBABLY JUST CONFUSED.

I'M NOT CONFUSED! I--

Bedtime. C'mon-- let's go.

RUUMMMMBLE

C'mon.

Sophie?
Sophie?

NO.
STOP!

HEY.

HEY, LISTEN-- I WANT TO HELP YOU.

I DON'T KNOW IF I BELIEVE YOU OR NOT...

BUT I REALLY CAN'T THINK OF A GOOD REASON YOU'D BE LYING.

SO... WE'RE GONNA FIGURE THIS OUT.

I KNOW EVERY CORNER OF THIS PLACE.

IF THE MASTER'S DONE SOMETHING LIKE YOU SAY, WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT.

AND IF HE *IS* A KILLER... I'M GONNA GET US ALL OUT OF HERE.

WAIT...

WHAT KILLER?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

END CHAPTER 1.

STRAY DOGS

StrayDogsComic@gmail.com

Hey Strays!

Thank you so much for giving our first issue a try. It really means the world to us. We hope you're intrigued enough to stick around for the rest. STRAY DOGS is a 5 issue mini-series and we've packed every issue with twists and turns and scares and as you've just seen— really adorable dogs.

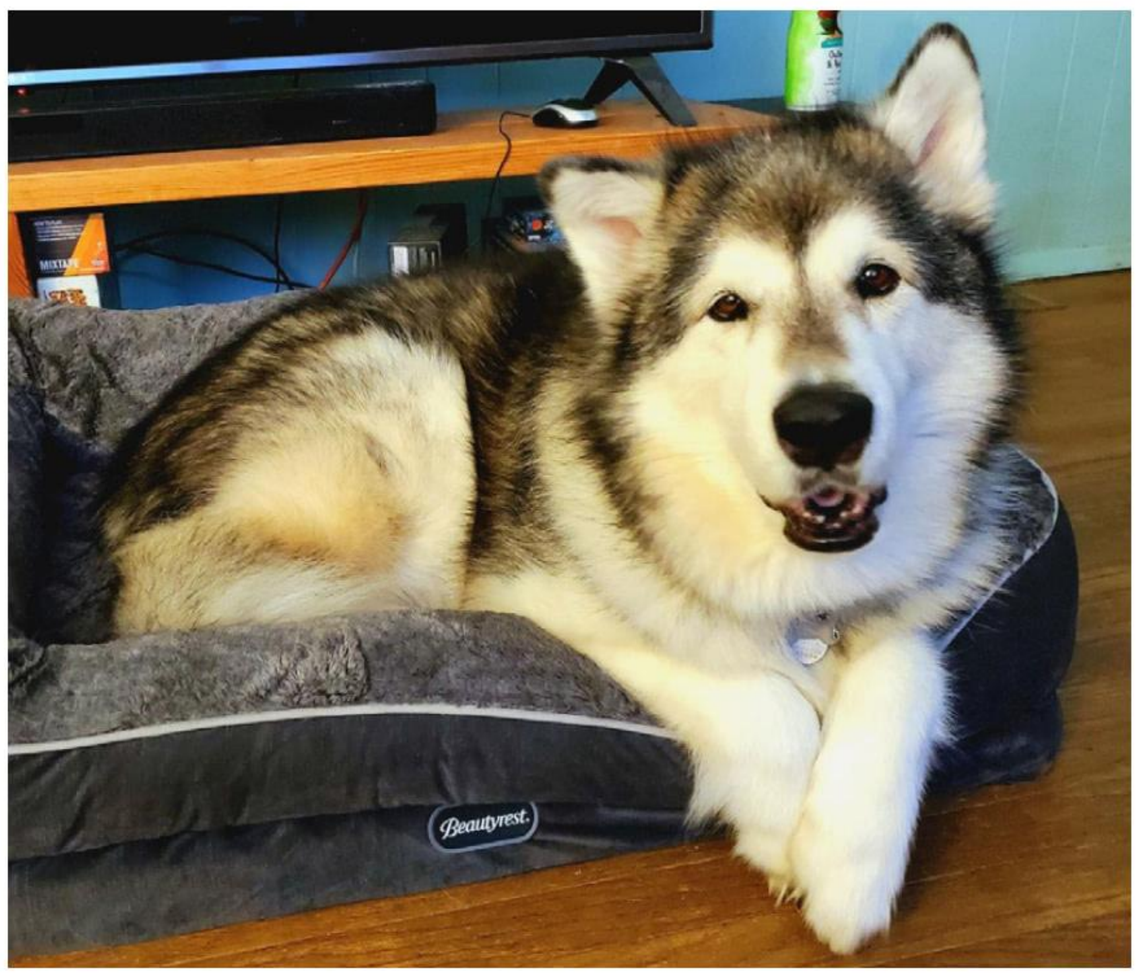
I feel like unless you read IDW's *My Little Pony* comics, there's a good chance this is your first time reading anything by Trish or myself. So real quick, I want to introduce you to the STRAY DOGS team: **Trish Forstner** co-created and draws this book. She's from Baltimore, MD. She's an animation lover and a dog lover— she's drawn a bunch of MLP comics since we started work on this book but STRAY DOGS is her first major work. **Tone Rodriguez** is a comics veteran and one of my best friends, he does layouts/backgrounds on this book. Long time Image comics readers already know Tone. He drew *Violent Messiahs, Shadowhawk, Snake Plisskin* and (my favorite,) Tyrese Gibson's MAYHEM! **Brad Simpson** is our amazing colorist. He gives every issue of this book the warm, '90s animated feel that makes these dogs feel so alive. I met Brad back when he lived in Northern California and I really fell in love with his work on a cover he did for my buddy Dennis' Image book BURNOUTS. The rest of the team: another one of my best friends, **Lauren Perry** flats all of my books with lunatic precision. DC comics' own **Gabriela Downie** is our pre-press wizard and **Lauren Herda** designed our super classy logo (and this page you're reading right now!) And I'm **Tony Fleecs**, I co-created and wrote this book. I've drawn and written a bunch of other stuff, *My Little Pony*, *Star Wars Adventures*, etc. This book is the first big creator owned thing that I've written solo. I live in L.A. and I mostly just work all the time.

In future issues, we'll run letters here if you have questions or concerns or critiques— or if you want to yell at us (and you will 100% want to yell at us.) Send any correspondence to StrayDogsComic@gmail.com or tweet at us @TonyFleecs or @TrishForstner. Ask us anything.

Oh, and more importantly! **WE WANT TO PRINT PICTURES OF YOUR DOGS!!** So send us those too.

Here, we'll kick off these dog pics ourselves...

My guy BAXTER.



Trish's girl EVE (she looks a lot like Roxanne from the book, right? Weird.)

Ok. Thanks so much again for reading. See you in a month!

Tony Fleecs
1/9/2021

HENDERSON GARBETT FABELA BOWLAND

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– Tom Taylor

"Be careful. Monsters are in the shadows, and monstrous talent is among them."
– Kieron Gillen

"SHADECRAFT is, at its heart, a story about finding light in the darkness - exactly the kind of book we need right now."
– Charles Soule

"SHADECRAFT is a super-compelling book that manages to spin one of my own personal terrors into a coming of age tale with a surprising amount of heart."
– Alex de Campi

"This is another in a growing pile of home run ideas with killer execution from team SKYWARD."
– Brian Michael Bendis

"Fantastic, organic world building with characters I already love. I'll never look at my shadow the same way again!"
– Kyle Higgins

HOW DO YOU FIGHT SOMETHING YOU CAN'T EVEN TOUCH?

MARCH 2021

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SNEAK PREVIEW

RADIANT BLACK™

KYLE HIGGINS MARCELO COSTA
WITH BECCA CAREY

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IT'S SO AWFUL, MAN. YOU DON'T =HICCUP= EVEN KNOW. WHAT IT'S LIKE =HICCUP= SEEING ALL THESE PEOPLE THAT DON'T EVER DO ANYTHING COOL...

YOU *JUST* SAID THIS PLACE IS GREAT...

IT IS! IT *IS!* NOW THAT YOU'RE BACK!

WE'RE GONNA HANG ALL THE TIME AND CATCH UP ON *MOVIES*, AND WE CAN FINALLY *WRITE* TOGETHER! REMEMBER? THAT ACTION THING WE WERE GONNA DO IN HIGH SCHOOL?

MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU WITH YOUR *BOOK*.

...UH, YEAH... MAYBE...

IT'S GONNA BE SO AWESOME, DUDE. REALLY. JUST AS SOON AS YOU TELL ME...

...WHAT THE *HELL* THAT IS?

HUH. I HAVE NO IDEA...

WELL THE FACT THAT WE BOTH SEE IT, *THAT'S* A GOOD START...

IS IT, LIKE, SOME KIND OF SIGNAL PROJECTION? FOR THE RAILROAD?

IT'S *LEVITATING.*

DUDE, CHECK IT OUT. IT LOOKS THE SAME--

--FROM EVERY--

--ANGLE.

THIS IS *SO WEIRD.* IT'S LIKE...A MINI *BLACK HOLE* OR SOMETHING.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. IT'S GOTTA BE A TRICK OF THE LIGHT--

UH, WAIT--

WH- WHAT IS THIS?!

AH IT'S *DOING SOMETHING!*

NATHAN?!

CONTINUED IN RADIANT BLACK #1 | FEBRUARY 2021

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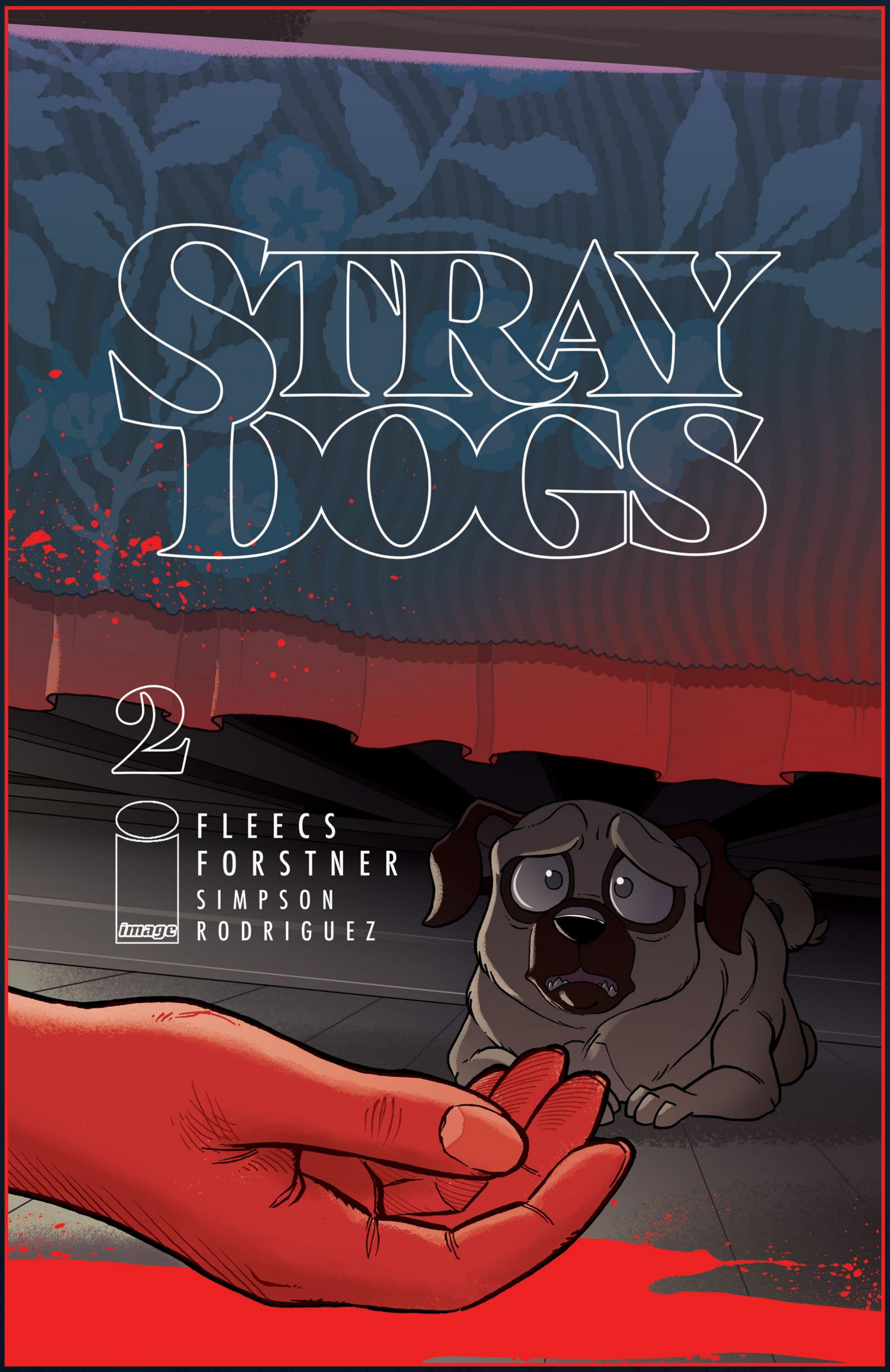

NEXT ISSUE! MARCH 2021

"My favorite thing about comics is when someone shows you something you didn't know you needed. *The Secret Life of Pets* meets *Seven*? Yes, please!! Welcome to STRAY DOGS. I was blown away!"

BRIAN MICHAEL BENDIS

RATED **T+**/TEEN PLUS

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"